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Buffalo Belles

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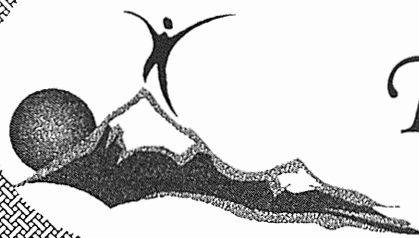
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DECEMBER

NOVEMBER 1999



THE JOURNEY

NEWSLETTER OF THE BUFFALO BELLES

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- **TAKE NOTE:** THE BUFFALO BELLES VOICE MAIL NUMBER HAS BEEN CHANGED. THE NEW NUMBER IS 879-0973.
- **WHAT CHANGES ARE IN STORE FOR THE BUFFALO BELLES IN THE UPCOMING NEW YEAR? BE SURE TO COME TO THE JANUARY MEETING AND FIND OUT!**

KATHY'S NOTES

Dear Sisters,

We had about our usual turnout for the November meeting. About a dozen girls came out for the "see yourself on video night". On our arrival we found we had a letter waiting for us, from our hosts. We haven't been evicted, but they want us to be finished and out of the building by 10:30 in the future. I'm sure Camille has more on this or will reprint the letter.

Our starting time has drifted later and later over the years. When we first formed seven years ago, we listed the starting time as 4:30. Slowly over the years we've drifted into a later and later time till it has gotten to be the meeting doesn't seem to get going till 8:30 or later.

That's how it went this meeting, as girls slowly drifted in, finally around 8 or so, Nancy led off with a recap of her adventures up at Provincetown in October. Now as those who've met Nancy know, she is not known for having a shy and quiet nature. She tells a good story, if you can keep up with it. At times someone who is slow like myself never quite understands some of her segues. Like how she can go from walking down the middle of the main drag of P-Town dressed to the hilt in long tight skirt with a slit up to the equator at 7AM to some story about shipboard life from her Navy career is beyond my understanding, but always to my great amusement.

Once Nancy was given the hook, Camille took over for her period of announcements, review of just attended events, ones coming up and her time on a troop ship entertaining the boys. She also came in pretty fired up about kicking some ass and getting some of you involved in the group. Seeing the fire in her eyes, I took the safe way out to avoid being signed up for some

duty and went and ordered the pizza and got out of there. Guess I just gave away my military career-beat a hasty retreat in the face of hostilities.

Funny, first time they ever told us to it would be ready as soon as I could get there. And they lied, had to sit there at the parlor and wait 20 minutes for it after all. But did get to take in some of a Sabres game while waiting.

Returning with the pizza, and not seeing any need to call for an ambulance, we were able to have our respite.

So now it is time to get the video part going. Of course, we were supposed to be out of there in another half hour, according to our recently received letter. But, hey, next month we'll try harder.

We must welcome a new sister, Jana, who made her debut with the group and brought the camera we used. Thank you Jana, you were so kind to bring this a meeting, especially being your first one! She brought a nice camera/tripod setup. Unfortunately, we couldn't run the monitor (TV set) at the same time. So one had her couple of minutes of fame to strut her stuff under the helpful guidance of Barbara, department guide. Then one could play back her video back at her leisure.

I hope all whom wished to try this, were able to do so. When it appeared that all were done, Jana started to pack up but Kathy used her charm/size to convince her to set it up for her. Next time Jana, don't be so agreeable!

Seeing yourself on video is so different than what you see in a mirror. I was both quite pleased and extremely disappointed in other aspects of my presentation. My video started with me walking away from the camera (not a too bad walk), and my voice sounds better than I expected.

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CAMILLE'S CORNER

New Year.
New Directions

Hello Belles.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at this year's Christmas party and getting the chance to wish you all a happy and healthy New Year. Beginning January I will be relinquishing many of my current duties so that I may be able to pursue other interests - some that I have been neglecting and others that I wish to strive for. I hope that a few of you will step forward to lend a hand or an idea. This organization can not operate without the effort of concerned individuals. It would be a shame now that we have the highest number of members in our history (60 and counting) and end up failing because there was not enough people who cared. If you believe in the Belles, volunteer for the activities committee. That's where we need the most help. I will lend a hand from time to time.

Some of the things I will be involved with is a lobbying effort among New York legislators to get gender related items included in the Hate Crimes bill that is currently in committee. This effort will culminate at the end of February when individuals will travel to Albany and spend the day visiting their local assemblymen and senators to inform and educate them on the needs of our community. Did you know you could be fired from your job or lose the apartment where you live because you crossdress or are a transsexual? These are just two items that a new law would offer protection from. I will be writing more on this subject in the next newsletter. If you are interested in helping this effort, please contact me through the mail or call our helpline and leave a message.

Speaking of those who have helped recently, I'd like to thank the following people for giving their time and effort to help with November's Glam-Cam Night: Jana, for the use and operation of her camcorder; Melissa, who also loaned us her camcorder; and Barbara, our 'deportment expert', who offered friendly and reassuring advice on walking, sitting and gen-

eral presentation. Without them, the evening activities would not have happened.

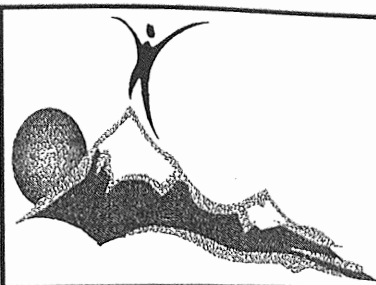
Other recent items: I attended the 29th Annual Miss Gay Rochester Pageant on November 14 and was blown away by the entertainment and professional production. In the last few years I've attended quite a few pageants and shows featuring drag performers and they start getting boring after a while. Not this one. Fun and entertaining from start to finish. Try it yourself next year. I'm sure you'd enjoy it.

On the subject of fun, there is a new club that has recently opened in Downtown Buffalo - 'Metroplex', on the 600 block of Main Street. Newly remodeled, it has a big dance floor, a long bar that makes it easy to see and be seen, a sitting area with comfortable couches and the nicest restrooms I've seen in a long time. And it is TG friendly. Give it a try if you're bored with some of the other clubs in the area.

Films to watch for: *Flawless*, playing in theaters right now. It's getting generally good reviews. Catch it before it disappears. *All About My Mother* which hasn't opened yet, is getting excellent pre-opening reviews. It's by Spanish director Aalvmodr (yes it has subtitles) who has made a few pictures featuring TG characters. He loves and adores women of all persuasions and it shows in many of his films. I'm looking forward to this one.

If you find the Buffalo Belles meetings long on socialization and short on serious discussions then may I suggest the Transgender Discussion Group that gets together once a month at the AIDS Alliance offices in downtown Buffalo. Some issues recently discussed: what to do if stopped by the police; harassment; name changes; telling family and friends; transitioning at work; impressions that clothing choices can make. It's open to anyone. Come dressed or come in drab. It's a good way to talk about some things that may be bothering you or you just need a friendly place to be yourself. Because of the busy holiday season the December meeting has been canceled. The next scheduled meeting is Sunday, January 16, from 2 to 4pm.

I'll close with one of my favorite quotes: "Look after your health. Enjoy your journey and try something new this year. Please. And pass on your passion to someone who needs it."



The Journey is the monthly publication of the Buffalo Belles. All articles and information contained in this publication may be reprinted in full by any non-profit gender community organization without permission, provided credit is given to this newsletter and the author. The material contained herein does not necessarily express the views or opinions of the Buffalo Belles, its officers or editorial staff. Contributions of articles are welcomed. The Buffalo Belles reserve the right to edit submissions for publication for suitability, spelling, grammar and/or length. Submissions or comments should be addressed to:

Buffalo Belles, PO Box
1701, Amherst, NY 14226-
1701

E-mail to:
buffalo_belles@juno.com

Editor:
Camille H.

Assistant Editor:
Kathy L.

To contact the Buffalo Belles:

By Phone:
(716) 879-0973

By Mail:
Buffalo Belles
P.O. Box 1701
Amherst, NY 14226

By E-Mail:
buffalo_belles@juno.com

NANCY'S PERSPECTIVE

Hi ladies,

No, I won't go away! Actually, I'm not sure where to start this month and I'm not normally at a loss for words.

I dropped a hint last month that I would be going to the 25th Anniversary edition of the Fantasia Fair. I went and I'm really having trouble putting my thoughts about that event into words. To convey emotion and feelings into the written form is not easy.

Provincetown (or P'town as it's known) is a truly unique place. Gender friendly is such an understatement. I'm not sure what the best word is that could describe this town. It has been a home away from home to the gay community for years, and I found everyone to be very accepting of each other no matter the situation. I had one store clerk tell me she was glad to have us in town each year as we tend to be calm and not rowdy like the people at "Women's Week" that proceeded us. I believe we are a better class of women is all! I think I'll just tell my experience in sentence form speaking in the first person. I would bet all the girls who attended had similar feelings, but they will have to write their own column.

Here goes: I met Virginia Prince and talked with her at length. She is now 87 and this was her last Fair. I met several officers from I.F.G.E. including the girl who maintains the bookstore. I ate lunch with a retired airline pilot from Seattle. I asked directions from two girls visiting from Saskatchewan. I spent 4 1/2 hours window shopping on the main street (or main "drag") while all dressed up without getting one negative comment. I did have one guy step to the open door of a bar and yell, "Honey, I'm home"! I just laughed him off. I went for coffee at 7am Friday morning, and that was the first time I have been in such a public place while all dressed up. No problem! I got a funny look from a couple of trash collectors but it was probably because I was over-dressed for the occasion (long skirt and heels will do that at 7 in the morning). I got to use my Visa card to buy some jewelry and loved it when the clerk asked, "So, Nancy, will that be all?" I saw a CD from San Diego ask his girlfriend to marry him/her in front of 100 girls at the dinner/dance on Saturday (she said YES). I met the owner of the Wild Side in Toronto at a rest stop on the Thruway near Utica. We are all invited up for a few laughs. I got a wig

(Continued on page 4)



THE ANNUAL BUFFALO BELLES CHRISTMAS PARTY

SATURDAY - DECEMBER 11

- ♦ GREAT FOOD
- ♦ MEMBER GIFT EXCHANGE (\$5-\$10 range)
- ♦ VISIT WITH OLD AND NEW FRIENDS
- ♦ AGAIN THIS YEAR THE BELLES WILL BE ACCEPTING UNWRAPPED TOYS TO BE DONATED TO THE "TOYS FOR TOTS" PROGRAM




WE NEED A FEW VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST WITH THE EVENING ACTIVITIES. PLEASE BE AN ANGEL AND HELP. CALL THE NEW HELPLINE VOICEMAIL NUMBER: 879-0973



(Continued from page 1)

KATHY'S NOTES

The audio pickup of Jana's setup really worked well, was surprised at how well it worked, even when I was 25' away.

But then, I had to do something really stupid. Turned and faced the camera. Walked back to it, right in to a close up. Big mistake or a big dose of reality. Both. This had to be the biggest blow to my self-confidence I've had in my transition. As I replayed it, my pleasure quickly turned into what I blurted out upon watching the replay for the first time "God I'm fucking ugly. I still look like a man." Took the tape home and just studied it over and over. Same conclusion.

Went into state of depression for a couple of days. And then started fighting back. OK, if that is what it's going to take, do it. I refer to facial surgery. Spent many hours going over facial surgery sites on the Internet. Plan to go forward with this as soon as possible, hopefully after New Years (if we survive). Of course, I've been promising to quite smoking for how many years now?

Of course, to pay for it has a simple solution. In another month, it will be time for Belles dues renewals. So you don't blow too much on Christmas gifts, thought you should know now that dues will be going up to \$995 next year. This breaks down into 25 for the Belles, 10 each for Patti and Cami, and 950 into the Lorraine Face Fund. Sounds good to me. Can't imagine what objection any of you might have to this. Hey, after all, it's for good ol' Kathy. Sure no arguing that she needs it!

December meeting:

Our annual Christmas party will be held on December 11th. We request that you bring a couple of gifts. One for a needy child and another for our gift exchange among members. Something any kid or girl could use. Try to keep it under \$10 for the girls, at least. If you feel like bringing in an extra special snack for this night, don't hesitate. Maybe Camille or Patti will have more on this.

Movie notice: currently playing is a movie called "Flawless". Robert DeNiro stars as a man who has had a stroke and to regain his voice takes singing lessons from his upstairs neighbor drag queen.

Also, being released around Christmas time, will be "Boys Don't Cry" the Brandon Teena story. It is scheduled to be shown at the North Park.

November Meeting
Attendees

Becky	Kathy
Brenda	Kelly
Camille	Kendra
Colleen	Malissa (debut)
Crystal	Melissa (guest)
Jana (debut)	Nancy
Karolyn	Victoria

(Continued from page 3)

NANCY'S PERSPECTIVE

styled by a pro, and really enjoyed the crowd scene at the bar named "Vixens". If you have never seen 10 lesbians with tattoos playing pool while surrounded by 50 crossdressers as 8 gay guys in leather stand at the bar - you have missed an amazing sight!

The list could go on and on but Camille has this thing about length. She wants me to keep it short (but sweet I might add). I'll leave you with a couple of quick thoughts. Highly recommended for anyone wanting a totally safe and understanding place to hang out. It was the fulfillment of a lot of things that have been running around inside of me for years. I have never felt so good about being a crossdresser. Hopefully you will come to a meeting and ask me to go into detail since I can certainly do that.

TAKE CARE...

Your sister,

Nancy

WISHING YOU AND
YOUR LOVED ONES
HAPPY HOLIDAYS
AND A
JOYFUL NEW YEAR

THREE BLONDE MEN...

Three blonde men are stranded on one side of a wide river, and don't know how to get across.

The first man prays to God to make him smart enough to figure out how to cross the river, so God turns him into a brown-haired man and he swims across.

The second man prays to God to make him even smarter, so God turns him into a dark-haired man and he builds a boat and rows across.

Then the third man prays to God to make him the smartest of all, so God turns him into a woman and he walks across the bridge.

TRANS COMMUNITY NEWS

SUBURBAN SACRAMENTO DISTRICT PAYS \$150,000 IN EXCHANGE FOR RESIGNATION.

SACRAMENTO--An award-winning teacher banned from the classroom after revealing plans to undergo a sex change operation has resigned in exchange for a \$150,000 settlement, officials at a suburban school district here announced Monday.

David Warfield, a teacher at Center High School since 1990, revealed in May that he intended to become Dana Rivers. But the 44-year-old teacher never returned to school this year because trustees voted in August to fire Rivers for discussing the sex change with students.

The 5,500-student Center Unified School District has been the focus of political wrangling and national media attention ever since. Rivers, who began publicly dressing as a woman after the school year ended, appealed the dismissal and filed a lawsuit. Supporters launched a recall against the three school board members who voted to fire Rivers.

Rivers said she decided to settle the case out of concern that a prolonged battle would further divide the high school and disrupt the learning process. "I did nothing to warrant the reactive stance taken against me," Rivers said in a statement issued by her attorney. She added that she wanted to find a job in another district. "I want to teach. I will move on and find work where I am valued as an experienced, exceptional educator."

Although most colleagues and students accepted Rivers' decision, a few parents complained. The teacher, they said, had violated parental rights by opening up to several students and giving an emotional interview with the student newspaper.

Rivers' supporters countered that the firing was the work of conservative Christians who simply didn't want a transsexual teacher in the classroom.

The Pacific Justice Institute, a nonprofit group that focuses on religious liberty issues, agreed to represent four parents angered by Rivers' behavior. The group hired a private investigator to gather information about Rivers.

Brad Dacus, an attorney with the group, said he hoped that the settlement would end the matter. "We see it as a clear victory for the parents and students," Dacus said. "This is a school board serving as a role model for others across the country."

Under the agreement, the district will pick up half the cost of the settlement, and its insurance carrier will pay the rest. An additional \$50,000 will be paid to Rivers if the state takes action to rescind her teaching credential. The district also has

paid more than \$20,000 in legal fees, officials said. "I'm pleased the teacher has decided to move along and get on with his or her life," said Scott Rodowich, one of three trustees who voted to fire Rivers.

Director of Center High's award-winning media academy, Rivers began hormone therapy and electrolysis treatments in January, the initial steps toward a sex change operation planned next year.

School authorities told Rivers to avoid discussing details of the sex change with students. But a couple of teenagers who had worked closely with Rivers in media classes approached with questions. Rivers explained a lifetime of inner turmoil and the anticipated transformation from man to woman.

Four parents complained, convincing the board that Rivers' conduct was improper. Despite a recommendation from district administrators that Rivers be issued only a reprimand, the board voted 3 to 2 to fire her.

Written by Eric Bailey

(c) 1999, Los Angeles Times

LATEST BRA TECHNOLOGY



In July, London art student Kursty Grovestold reporters she had developed a prototype "Techno Bra", which houses in its lining a Global Positioning Satellite locator, heart-rate monitor and cell phone transmitter, to be activated if the wearer is attacked (which supposedly produces a heartbeat distinct from that produced by exercising or passion).

Also in July, a report of an American Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery study indicated success with the battery-operated vacuum bra that removes air from its two domes so that breasts are sucked forward; 15 women testers grew by an average of one cup size after 10 weeks.

TRANS COMMUNITY NEWS

SEX CHANGE RULING MAY CAUSE SCANDAL

San Antonio Express-News, Rick Casey, October 28, 1999

It's official. Legally speaking, Christie Lee Littleton is a guy. You wouldn't know it to look at her. She showed up at court last month in a skirt that didn't reach her knees. She had a prominent bust and, according to court records, she wouldn't cause a scandal by joining a group shower at the YWCA.

The sole issue before the 4th Court of Appeals here was whether seeing is believing. By a 2-1 vote, the court ruled it isn't.

You may recall Littleton's case. She was born male, but felt from an early age that she really was female. Her parents were concerned about their little boy. A doctor gave him hormones. Nothing worked.

As soon as he was legally able, he enrolled in a sex-change program at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Following a well-established protocol, doctors put Littleton through psychological screening and counseling, hormonal therapy and, finally, surgery.

Some years later, she fell in love and married a man. He was fully aware of her past. Their marriage lasted seven years and included full sexual relations. It ended only when he died. She believed her husband would have lived but for improper care by his physician, whom she sued.

Under the law, she can sue only if she is her husband's widow. The doctor's attorneys argued that since she was born a male and still has male chromosomes, she was in a same-sex marriage, which is not recognized in Texas. She is not, therefore, her husband's widow.

A district judge agreed and threw out the suit. Wednesday, just six weeks after they heard arguments, Chief Justice Phil Hardberger and Justice Karen Angelini upheld the judge's decision. Justice Alma Lopez dissented.

"We recognize that there are many fine metaphysical arguments lurking about here involving desire and being, the essence of life and the power of mind over physics," Hardberger wrote. "But courts are wise not to wander too far into the misty fields of sociological philosophy. Matters of the heart do not always fit neatly within the narrowly defined perimeters of statutes, or even existing social mores. Such matters though are beyond this court's consideration."

He said the Legislature should decide whether transsexuals can marry persons of the same sex into which they were born.

Meanwhile, he wrote, Littleton should be regarded as a male because she was born a male and still has male chromosomes.

Lopez agreed that the best solution would be for the Legislature to address the issue. But she drew the opposite con-

clusion. "In an ordinary case, the absence of such law would prevent this court from concluding that the movant (the doctor) was entitled to judgment as a matter of law," she wrote. "In the instant case, however, the majority relies on the absence of statutory law to conclude that this case presents a pure question of law that must be decided by this court rather than to allow the case to proceed to trial; that is, whether Christie is male or female."

Suggesting the Legislature should take the matter up is good legal theory, but unrealistic practical politics. Transsexual groups have sought legislation to address the issue. Last January a bill was submitted and a committee heard testimony.

That was the end of it.

Can anyone seriously imagine a majority of elected politicians choosing to take this issue on?

But the Legislature's inaction and the 4th Court's decision won't make the issue go away.

Buried in Hardberger's opinion is a reference to a New Zealand court that ruled a transsexual could marry because "the alternative would be more disturbing ... That is, if a post-operative transsexual female was deemed a male, she could marry a woman, in what would to all outward appearances be a same-sex marriage."

That's exactly what Phyllis Frye, in an e-mail last month, suggested may happen if Texas courts adopt "the chromosome standard," which says anyone with XY chromosome is male, and XX female.

Frye, a San Antonio Jefferson High and Texas A&M graduate who now lives in Houston, explained how she believes some "transgender activists" may act:

"Invite all legally declared XY neo-vagina possessing males who like women to come to Texas and legally marry an XX vagina possessing female. The genitals will match, in everyday society it will look like two women having a wedding, holding hands and kissing in public, but it will be a legal, court-declared opposite-sex marriage."

"Invite all legally declared XX neo-penis possessing females who like men to legally marry an XY penis possessing male. The genitals will match, but it will be a legal opposite-sex marriage."

"Have some impromptu beach parties in which legally declared XY neo-vagina possessing males who also have breasts go topless. How do the police arrest legal males for not wearing a shirt?"

That would be a sight. My limited experience is that man-to-woman transsexuals are analogous to religious converts — they tend to be more Catholic than the Pope.

The restroom situation also will have to be addressed, Frye says, not to mention prison assignments.

"Legally declared XY neo-vagina possessing males can set up shop in the male jails and the legally declared XX neo-penis-possessing females can demand a women's facility."

God made things interesting for us, didn't it?

FOR A BETTER YOU...



ASK THE
MAKE-UP
DIVA



Q: "What is a toner, what does it do and when should I use it?"

A: Let me start by saying that there are several different ideas about the role of a toner/freshener/astringent in a skin care routine, depending on who you talk to. Women working at a boutique, salon, spa, or cosmetic counter at a department store will probably tell you that a toner is an essential step, that it "balances" the skin, removes any makeup or dirt that your cleanser missed, and "prepares" the skin for moisturizer or treatment.

First, let's clear up the differences are between toners, fresheners and astringents. These terms are often used interchangeably, with "toner" being the most common. Most "toners" are made up of water, skin soothers like aloe or chamomile, plant oils, ingredients to cleanse or draw moisture to the skin, and preservatives. Typically, "fresheners" are alcohol-free while "astringents" are not. Astringents are usually for oily skin and are often designed to fight acne or control oil.

Another option for toners is the addition of treatment ingredients like alpha hydroxy (lactic, glycolic) or beta hydroxy (salicylic) acids, or vitamins. Of all the extras, salicylic acid can be most helpful for blemish prone skin since it penetrates the pores and helps clear out the dead skin cells and bacteria that can cause pimples.

So, do you really need a toner? Based on my experience over the years with hundreds of products in dozens of different lines, I have to say "No". I have never noticed my skin acting more "balanced" or more "prepared", and you should not need a toner to remove makeup or dirt that your cleanser didn't get - you just need a better cleanser.

If you decide to add a toner to your daily skincare routine, make it one that really suits your skin and its needs. Always choose something gentle that doesn't dry, strip or otherwise irritate your skin, and don't spend a fortune on something that is basically souped-up water.

Fashion

TIPS FROM "INSTANT STYLE"

By Emily Cho & Neila Fisher

- A closet full of neutrals like beige, gray, and black will mix with anything. It makes shopping for additions less of a guessing game.
- Never wear white or even off-white stockings. They make your legs look chalky and heavier.
- If you really want your perfume to last, spray some on a piece of cotton and tuck it into your bra.
- Change your bottled makeup once a year because its color can change. Each product has a shelf life and is no longer at its best when that shelf life has expired.
- The trick to using hair spray to add body and volume is to spray your hair at the roots.



My Trip to the Poconos

By Tina M.

(Editor's Note: Tina joined the Belles this year and wrote this article about her trip to the Western Belles Roundup in November.)

We got home from the Poconos yesterday safe and sound. Now it's time to unpack and get back to my "male" lifestyle. I've got to tell you, I didn't want to leave. I had a good time and brought back some great memories that I will cherish for a long time (as well as very sore and swollen feet). The trip was a year in the planning and it was over in the blink of an eye.

After two days of packing and a few hours to do my nails, I was off to Mistress Kalis' House. (I thought I had packed way too many things, but it turned out that I did use about 80% of what I had brought.) On arrival to her house, I put my things into her car, and we were off. The ride there went fine. The only problem I had was trying to pay the toll with winter gloves on. I couldn't bring myself to pay the tolls with long red finger nails. The toll collector said I should take those gloves off and I thought to myself "I don't think so!" Unfortunately, about half way there I noticed that I had broken a thumb nail. I was a little bummed, but thought I would have time to fix it at some point (I never did). I hope no one noticed!

We arrived about 1:00 PM on Friday. We weren't able to make it on Thursday because of other obligations. I was a little nervous because there was only 1 hour to get ready for lunch and that was pushing it for me. I felt a little uncomfortable about checking in because there I was again, Tim with long red finger nails, but no one seemed to care. Back to my room for a quick shower and a change for lunch. It felt good to be all Tina again. (A hint for newcomers for next year: start the shower first, it takes 15 min. to warm up).

I was a little late for lunch, but there was a plate of food waiting for me and it was good, but the meatloaf would come back to haunt me because of my corseted waist. There was always plenty to eat and it was all good! After a quick Hello to people, it was back to my room for another change for the "Annie Oakley" rifle contest. There were 8 of us shooting and everyone did really well, even with the targets swinging in the wind. I managed to pull out a second and there was one girl that had never shot before that had the best shot pattern, just a little off center. That was impressive! After this there was a little time for relaxing, socializing, and warming up. I was able to take in a talk given by Lady Anai about the "Other World Kingdom," which I found very interesting.

At about 6:00, I went back to my room to get ready for the "Shotgun Wedding." I've got to tell you, it was quite an experience walking back and forth from my room to the lodge in

5" heels, especially in the dark. I never realized what a nuisance stones can be! I felt very guilty when Mistress Kali would take my arm to help me but I was thankful. The wedding went off perfectly. Everyone involved did an excellent job and I never saw a more beautiful bride! After the wedding and dinner it was time to change into more casual clothes for the bonfire and hayride. This was a lot of fun and the hayride was my first ever. It seems I've been doing a lot of firsts in the last year.

After a few hours we were getting cold and the bonfire was dying out, so we went back inside to do some dancing and some more socializing. I had never danced as "Tina" before, so it was a neat experience to watch myself in the wall mirror. I'm not much of a dancer to begin with but it was fun. Things finally ended at about 3:00 AM and I was exhausted. That was it for the first day and tomorrow was going to be twice as busy, so rest was needed.

After an 8:30 breakfast (I think I made it by 9:00), it was time for me to get ready for my talk on corsets. It was to start at 11:00, so another change and back to the lodge to set up my table. I was looking forward to this. It's one of the few things that I feel comfortable talking about to a group. The talk went well and was well attended. I do wish I would have had a little more time. I had one hour and tried to get as much in as I could, but after it was over, I kept remembering things I wanted to say. I'll just have to do it again next year. I hope the girls attending got something out of it. After my talk I had time to take in the talk by Sissy Maid Stephanie W. I found her talk very interesting. She had some very nice stories and feelings to share with us. Next was more socializing, lunch, and back to my room to get ready for the "Etiquette Class for Sissy Maids" which was going to be given by Mistress Kali. I learned a few important things as well as that it's hard to curtsy without falling over, even in low heels. That's something that takes a lot of practice to do properly.

Next came the "Sissy Maid" contest followed by the Tea Party. I think we gave the judges a tough job, because they kept asking us to do more things to help them decide. Then we were off to serve tea which went well. No one spilled any on the Mistresses! Now it's about 5:00 and yes, time for another change for the "Best Western" contest. I put on my only western outfit that actually got to the Poconos before me thanks to Mistress Lisa. I showed my outfit to Mistress Kali, and she said it's nice but missing something. Try on my hat and cowboy boots. I was reluctant because cowboy boots didn't do a thing for my shoe fetish, but they did help the outfit. One quick stop to the lodge store for a western belt and I was done.

A little more talking, a quick dinner, and time to get ready for the talent contest. This was the one thing that I wasn't looking forward to. I was going to do a lip-sync to "Cher." I

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am not a performer, and I don't think I look very good with black hair. I am glad that it was the last event of the weekend, though. I had the chance to talk with most of the people there, and they were all very nice, so this made me feel a lot more at ease about my performance, but I sure was glad when it was over and I got my regular wig back. There were 4 girls entered in the talent contest, and I'll have to say, they were all great! (at least 3 were). I'm still happy that I did it. Each time gets easier.

Last thing planned for the evening was the awards ceremony so we could all start to relax. This was the climax of the weekend and I was overwhelmed when they announced the winner of the "Bell of the Ball." It was me! I couldn't believe it. I hadn't expected to win anything. This was great and it will go down in my memories as one of the Best! I went back to the bar to listen to the other awards being given out and thinking about what had just happened, when I heard that they were giving out the award for "Miss Congeniality." I heard Mistress Kali say "I had nothing to do with this" and then I heard her say "Tina." I was shocked! This gave me the happiest feeling I've had in a long time. I did feel the tears start to build in my eyes. I knew how important this event was, because it was determined by all the other girls there. I hadn't thought I was doing anything special. I was just being me and having fun. What a great weekend!

All that was left now was to party and dance. After an evening of dancing in 5" heels, I didn't think I would ever be able to walk again. I love my high heels, but they were pressing their luck that night. Things closed up about 2:00 AM or so, so a group of us had a pajama party on the balcony. Oh yeah, this meant another change into my short red satin nightgown with, of course, my red 5" heel pumps. I did take them off when I got upstairs. This ended about 4:00 AM, and I got a surprise when I went to put my shoes back on. My feet had swollen and I could barely get them back on. I was glad I had brought my sneakers for the walk back to the cabin. I don't think I could have handled the stones one more time.

I've got to tell you that after two days in 4" & 5" heels my legs and feet are still sore but the memories that came with it makes it all very worth while. I've never had a more enjoyable 2 1/2 days in my life. I met so many wonderful people, and the ranch hands as well. I did not want to leave when Sunday came. It had all gone by so fast. I was asked what was the best event of the weekend and I couldn't give an answer. The whole weekend was one great event! This was the first time I could be "Tina" for 2 1/2 days nonstop and I loved it. I hope more people can make it next year. They don't know what a great time they missed. I'll be there! I want to give a special "Thanks!" to all the people who worked so hard over the past year to make this event the success it was. Thank You!

The following is presented for CDs, T-girls and women who, when venturing out, may encounter certain behaviors in regard to the 'determined' man. You know, the kind who won't take "no" for an answer. Just cut out the card below, fold it in two and carry it with you whenever you think you may run across that particular kind of guy.
(For amusement purposes only. Use at your discretion.)

MEN
Please read rules
before proceeding.

- 1- Please don't talk to my breasts. You won't be meeting them.
 - 2- If you want to control someone, sleep with your remote.
 - 3- I always choose chocolate over men - Always.
 - 4- 51% Love Goddess. 49% Bitch.
 - 5- My sexual preference is NO.
 - 6- My body is a temple, now get on your knees and pray.
 - 7- It's not the size that counts, no, wait, size does count.
 - 8- Remember you horny piece of dirt, girls are made of sugar, spice and everything nice.
 - 9- Men are like hardwood floors. Lay them right the first time and you can walk all over them forever.
 - 10- Save your breath for your inflatable doll.
- Bearer of this card certifies that he has read the rules and swears to adhere to them to the best of his ability.



COMING EVENTS



DUE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF LAST MINUTE
CHANGES, CALL TO VERIFY THE TIME AND
PLACE OF EVENTS

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| DECEMBER 3-5 | X-PRESSIONS CHRISTMAS GALA
Toronto, Ontario |
| DECEMBER 11 | BUFFALO BELLES MEETING 7:00pm
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY |
| DECEMBER 18 | PEP ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY 7:00pm
Compton's After Dark, 1239 Niagara Street, Buffalo |
| JANUARY 8 | BUFFALO BELLES MEETING 7:00pm |
| JANUARY 16 | TRANSGENDER DISCUSSION GROUP 2-4pm
367 Delaware Ave. (near Tupper St.), Buffalo |
| FEBRUARY 12 | BUFFALO BELLES MEETING 7:00pm |
| FEBRUARY 18-20 | FOURTH ANNUAL TRUE SPIRIT CONFERENCE
Alexandria, Virginia |
| FEBRUARY 26 | CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION 10:00pm – 2:00am
Buffalo State College, 1300 Elmwood Ave |
| MARCH 1-5 | COLORADO GOLD RUSH TG CONVENTION
Denver, Colorado |
| APRIL 30 | MILLENNIUM MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR
EQUALITY |

